(b) On an average the applicants registered upco 30-9-86 are expected to be provided telephone connections by 31-390. Remaining applicants will be provided with telephone connections thereafter progressively.

(c) A new electronic exchange with a capacity of 20,000 lines is expected to be installed in Janakpuri during 1989. As an interim measure a 1000 lines electronic remote line unit is scheduled for commissioning in about a month's time.

Ensuring Weight of LJP.G. Cylinders Before Delivery

1936. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI**:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt**,** have issued directions to LPG dealers to ensure weight of gas cylinders on portable weighing machines before delivery to customers at their place;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when such weighing machines shall be made available at a reasonable price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, customers are at liberty to cheek the weight of LPG cylinders at the distributors' premises. Besides, the refills are checked for accuracy of weighment after filling operations at the bottling plants before despatch for distribution

(c) Presently no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Environmental Pollution by Coal India Limited

1937. SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited has been cheating environmental pollution through its operation in the Patkai range of mountains in Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the people living in the vicinity of areas of operation have lodged a protest against the operation through the pollution control council in Assam; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OE STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited is engaged in coal mining operations near Patkai range in Assam. To mitigate the environmental impact of the mining operations, CIL is taking adequate precautions through measures like plantation and reclamation **of** worked out areas.

An organisation based in Margherita has drawn the attention of the coal company to the environmental problems arising out of the coal mining activities. An expert committee has appreciated the steps taken by CIL for environmental protection and has suggested some additional measures.

Survey in Himalayan Region for Oil and Gas

1938. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey in the Himalayan region for oil and natural gas reserves;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to tap these resources and give a boost to the economy of this region?